

Garlic Grower's Guide



A great harvest starts with great seed.

Basic Step-By- Step Guide to Growing Garlic
In South Africa
By
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www.gracelandgarlicseed.com

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Graceland Garlic is based in Springs, Gauteng and was founded in 2013 by father and son duo, Dereyck and Jacques Terblanche. A small part-time project developed into a lucrative and intensive full-time farming venture that is still expanding and growing.

We specialise in cultivating top quality garlic seed at competitive prices and supply seed throughout South Africa and Africa. We have an export certificate and do the paperwork to apply for phytosanitary certificates for our clients across the border.

We pride ourselves in cultivating top quality seeds for both the commercial farmer and the small-scale garden enthusiast. Our garlic is grown and stored under special conditions to preserve the seed for the optimal yield. Our seeds have been carefully selected, cleaned, and sorted and are ready for planting.

Garlic seed increases exponentially. The secret to successful garlic farming is to buy your initial seed. Produce your own seed from your original crop, In consecutive years you can plant your own seed. Therefore, you only need to buy seed once. In doing so you will save on the cost of seed when you plant every successive crop.

Where And When Can I Order Garlic Seed?

Beware Of Buying Cheaper Seeds That Have Not Been Tested In A Registered Laboratory

A successful harvest begins with good quality seed. Clean and healthy seeds form the foundation of any harvest. It is impossible to harvest an excellent quality crop of garlic from inferior or compromised seed. At GRACELAND GARLIC, no effort is spared in making sure our clients receive the best possible quality of seed and value for their money. We employ the latest scientific and agricultural advances to ensure our clients get the best quality seed for an optimal yield. Clients who want to buy seed must be aware of "bargain buys" or fresh garlic bought from the market. This seed may be infected with harmful pathogens that can easily spoil your entire crop and stay in your soil for more than ten years. All our seed are tested by registered Agricultural Research laboratories to make sure it is free from fungus that can adversely affect the Quality and potential yield of your crop.

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS!

Place your order now to avoid disappointment! Due to the huge demand for garlic in our country we have decided to open for orders a bit sooner this year! We are now ready to take your seed order. (Order form at the end of manual)

What Does Garlic Seeds Look Like?

Garlic seeds are the individual cloves that make up the bulb that you buy in the supermarket. After planting the clove, it will form another bulb which consists, once again of cloves.



Garlic seed / cloves

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Which Variety Is Best To Grow In SA?

The Egyptian pink garlic - It is well adapted, easy grower and popular with consumers. This variety also has a very long shelf life. When raw, Egyptian garlic has a crisp texture with a sharp, pungent, and spicy flavour, and if crushed, it will emit a strong aroma. This flavour and aroma will lessen with cooking and will develop a mild, savoury flavour.



Egyptian Pink Garlic

Why Are Seeds Bought Off The Shelf Not Good For Planting?

“Shop seed” or garlic seed that is bought off the shelf is treated with growth inhibitors that makes it sterile and prevent it from sprouting and so lengthens its shelf life. It may also have been irradiated and bleached or even carry disease, so it is not suitable for planting.



Garlic naturally consists dark spots due to which many would not buy it. Therefore, to clean its appearance and make it look more appealing, *imported* garlic is bleached with chlorine to hide these dark spots. This chlorine is cancerous in nature.

When you irradiate food, you produce an effect on microorganisms due to their effects on DNA and cell membranes. Photons, electrons, or x-rays strike the cell membranes and the DNA, damaging both. In plant cells, DNA is not required for reproduction, so damage to DNA is irrelevant.

Is There A Market For Fresh Garlic?

The garlic landscape in South Africa looks very promising. Garlic is selling at record prices in supermarkets, and it looks like it will stay that way for a long time to come. SA needs local producers to supply in the huge demand for good quality garlic. Consumers are becoming more aware of the poor quality and bland taste of Chinese imports. With the enormous expansion of the health and wellness industry, there is an increasing leaning towards organic and natural products. Garlic is famous for its healing qualities and health benefits. Local is lekker and so is local garlic. It is much tastier and healthier!



Fresh garlic sold

In general, garlic is also in high demand because of its health benefits and because consumers around the world are cooking more at home. Due to the high demand and shorter supply, prices are also high.

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When Is The Right Time To Plant Garlic?

Planting time for garlic is in February/March in the central and eastern parts of South Africa but can be planted until May in the Western Cape and surrounding areas. Garlic is a winter crop and frost resistant. It needs the cooler temperatures and the shorter days of winter to produce bigger bulbs.

February 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |

February 21 Washington's Birthday

March 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

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How Do You Plant Garlic?

Garlic can be planted by hand or mechanically, 12cm x 13cm apart and at a depth of 5cm - 8cm. It is economical to plant under a hectare by hand. For anything more than one hectare it is advisable a planter is used.



Garlic planted by hand



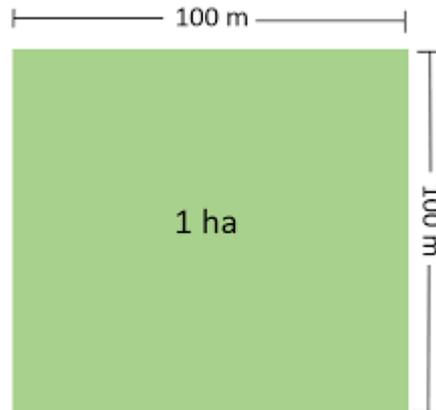
Garlic planter

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How Much Garlic Seeds Do I Need To Populate A Hectare?

$1/4\text{ha} / 2\,500\text{m}^2 = 62\,500$ seeds
 $1/3\text{ha} / 3\,333\text{m}^2 = 83\,333$ seeds
 $1/2\text{ha} / 5\,000\text{m}^2 = 125\,000$ seeds
 $1\text{ha} / 10\,000\text{m}^2 = 250\,000$ seeds



How Much Water Does Garlic Need?

25mm per week. Drip or sprinkle irrigation can be used to water your garlic. Drip is probably more ideal because there is far less wastage of water. Flood irrigation does work in certain soil types. One has to be careful that the water doesn't wash the garlic seeds out of the ground.



Drip irrigation



Flood irrigation



Sprinkle irrigation

Too little water can stress plants, and too much water can cause bulb rot. In soil with ideal drainage, garlic requires between 25mm of water per week. If it rains less than 25mm a week, make up the difference with supplemental watering. It is best to water deep, but infrequently.

What Soil Type Does Garlic Prefer?

Garlic is an easy grower and does well in sandy, loam or clay soil. It is important that the soil is well-drained and evenly levelled out so that the garlic seeds do not lie in pools of water.



How To Prepare The Soil For Planting Garlic?

It is essential that your soil gets tested and analysed. Correct the pH (6.5), and make sure your soil possesses all the nutrients it needs for growing and harvesting a great crop. When preparing your soil for planting garlic make sure the soil is aerated and loose in consistency and not too compacted.



Does Garlic Need Fertiliser?



It is advisable to get a fertilizer and foliar feeding program to supply nutrients that might be lacking in your soil and to keep your plants strong and healthy. This will ensure healthier plants, bigger bulbs, and tastier garlic. Fertiliser might seem expensive, but you will see the results when harvesting your crop.

Garlic has a moderate to high demand for nitrogen, so fertilizer can be incorporated before planting. Apply phosphorus and potassium according to soil test results and incorporate both before planting. Planting in mid-March in colder will help get roots established before the ground freezes.

Which Type Of Climate Suits Garlic Best?



Garlic is a strong and well adapted plant and will grow in almost any climate. It grows in the desert in Egypt and snow-covered fields of Europe. Garlic needs the cold to make bigger bulbs.

Garlic is very winter hardy; cold weather doesn't bother it one bit. In fact, the taller the sprouts are above ground, the better the plants will do over winter. Garlic does best in full sun, so select a planting site that receives 6 to 8 hours of sunlight per day. Garlic does not do well in pots or containers.

Weed Control.



Manual weeding

Keeping your field free of weeds is important. Weeds can keep sunlight from reaching the garlic plants. It also takes up water and other nutrients that was meant to benefit the garlic plants. Use a combination of manual and chemical weed control to get rid of weeds. Make sure, that the herbicide you use is specifically registered to be used on garlic. Using *mulch* is also effective in combatting weeds.

How Long Does Garlic Take To Be Harvest-Ready?

The Egyptian varieties take more or less 7 months to mature and the Giant variety takes 9 months. Decrease your irrigation toward the end of the growing season. Wait until 30% of garlic leaves die down and plants start to fall over before harvesting.



Garlic ready for harvest

Do Regular Spot Checks During The Growing Season.

Examine your plants frequently throughout the season to make sure it is healthy and not plagued by insects. Look at the roots, stems and bulbs. You can even send samples of leaves away for analysis to see if there is any nutritional deficiency. Treatment is always more effective when problems are detected early.



How Is Garlic Harvested?

Garlic is mostly harvested by hand. Some farmers have adapted or modified potato harvesters to harvest their garlic mechanically. Make sure that you do not injure or damage the bulbs when harvesting.



Garlic harvested

Curing And Storing Garlic

Curing and storing garlic under the right conditions are important. Leave the stalks and roots on the bulbs while they cure. Bundle 8 to 10 garlic stems together, tie with string, and hang bulb-side down in a cool, dark space. Allow the bulbs to cure for three to four weeks. The key to proper curing is providing good air circulation between the bulbs. As the garlic dries, the skin shrinks and turns papery, forming a protective barrier against moisture and mould.



Garlic being cured

Don't remove the leaves while the garlic is curing. The bulb continues to draw energy from the leaves and roots until all that moisture evaporates. Keeping the leaves intact also helps to prevent fungi or other lurking contaminants from spoiling the garlic before it's fully cured. Curing is complete when the roots look shrivelled and feel stiff, and the leaves are completely brown and dried. Proper curing will also extend the shelf life of the garlic bulbs. Store bulbs in a cool, dry place with adequate ventilation. Under optimal conditions, cured garlic can store for several months after harvest. Once the garlic is fully cured, clean it up by removing the leaves at the neck (about 3cm long). More dirt will dislodge and a couple layers of bulb wrappers may flake off, giving you a nice and neatly packaged bulb. Remember not to remove too many wrappers in case you expose the cloves.



A great harvest starts with great seed.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Garlic variety: _____ Quantity: _____

Payment option 1: (50% Deposit) Payment option 2: (100% Deposit)

Invoice Details:
VAT Number:(Optional)

Address: _____

Courier/Delivery: Collection:

Delivery Address:

Collection Address: 4 Mac Phail street, Petersfield, Springs, 1559

By signing this RFQ, I have read and understand the Terms and Conditions on www.gracelandgarlicseed.com.

Signature

Kindly note that your seed order will only be reserved once we have received your deposit and proof of payment.
Seed will be ready for planting from February 2023.
Please return this form to jaak@mweb.co.za.